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BOISE NATIONAL FOREST IDAHO

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U. S. Department of Agriculture



Dr. A. E. Weaver

Grandjean Peak from Sacajawea Hot Spring

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN DISTRICT
ISSUED 1936

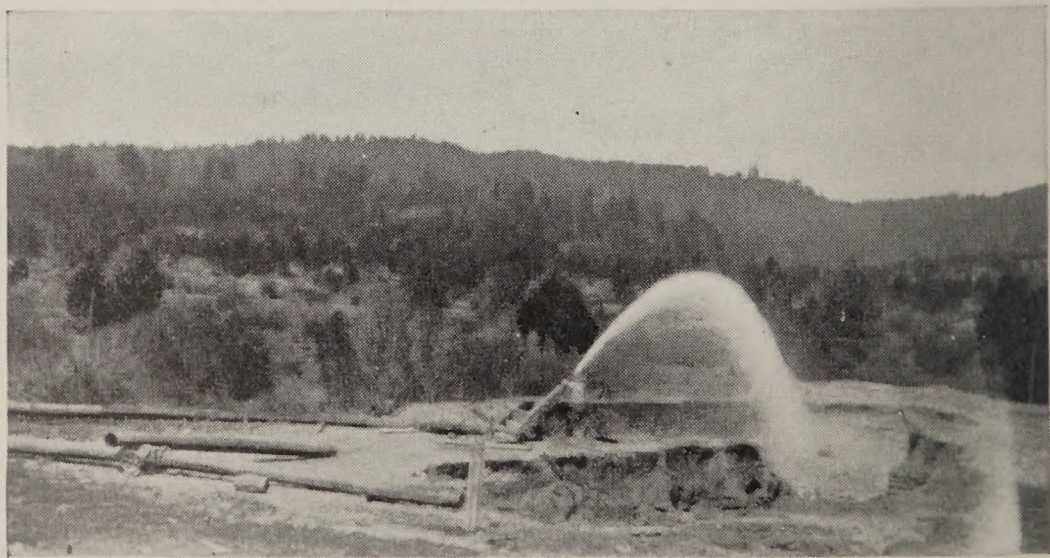
BOISE NATIONAL FOREST

The Boise Forest, containing 1,273,563 acres of Government land, is located in southwestern Idaho on the western slope of the Sawtooth Mountains, and covers the higher portions of the watersheds of the Boise River and the South Fork of the Payette River. It lies about half in Boise County and half in Elmore County. Its name, from the French for wooded or woody, is taken from the Boise River, which was named by the early French Canadian trappers.

HISTORY

Originally, the Boise Forest was part of the Sawtooth Forest Reserve, which was created by Presidential Proclamation May 29, 1905. It was established, substantially as it is at present, as the Boise National Forest, July 1, 1908.

The first recorded invasion of this area by white man was in 1862, when Capt. George Grimes and his party discovered placer gold on Grimes Creek in the Boise Basin. By 1864 the Boise Basin had a population of 40,000. While the first settlement was by prospectors and miners, many people saw the future value of the large bodies of agricultural land along the lower reaches of the Boise and Payette Valleys and began to settle and cultivate these areas, thus advancing their development many years ahead of the rest of the State.



Placer Mining in Boise Basin.

Captain Grimes, like so many pioneers of his type, never benefited by his discovery of gold. He was killed by Indians shortly after he located his claim, and was buried where he fell on a low divide between the waters of the Boise and Payette Rivers. Here the Forest Service has set aside an area for memorial and park purposes, and at the grave of Captain Grimes the Native Sons of Idaho have erected a suitable monument.

ACCESSIBILITY

Most points of interest within the Boise Forest are readily accessible by auto roads. The rebuilding of old roads and the construction of new ones is being pushed as fast as funds are available. In addition to roads, 600 miles of trails and 280 miles of

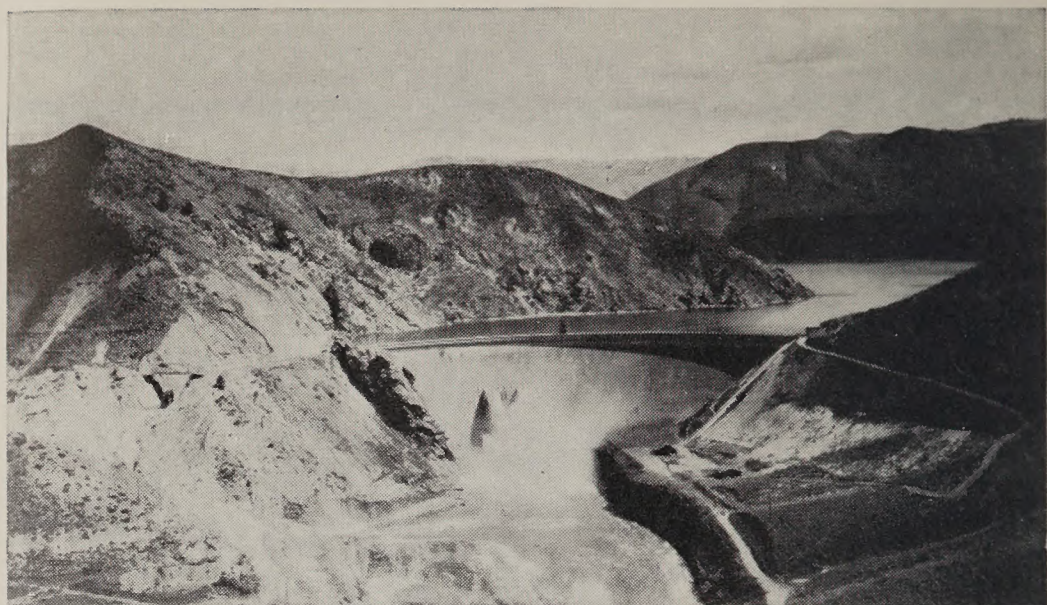


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Rock Creek Road.

telephone lines are maintained. Telephone instruments are available at all ranger stations and at many other convenient places. Locations of all roads, trails, and telephone lines are shown on this map. While these improvements have been built primarily to aid in the protection and administration of the forest, use by the public is permitted.

It is expected that everyone using the forest will observe the game laws and cooperate in the prevention of forest fires.



Dr. A. E. Weaver

Arrow Rock Dam and Reservoir.

ADMINISTRATION

The national forests, which were at first called "forest reserves", were placed under the supervision of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, in 1905. Under date of February 1, 1905, James Wilson, then Secretary of Agriculture, issued the following instructions to the Forester:

In the administration of the forest reserves it must be clearly borne in mind that all land is to be devoted to its most productive use for the permanent good of the whole people. Where conflicting interests must be reconciled, the question will always be decided from the standpoint of the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run.

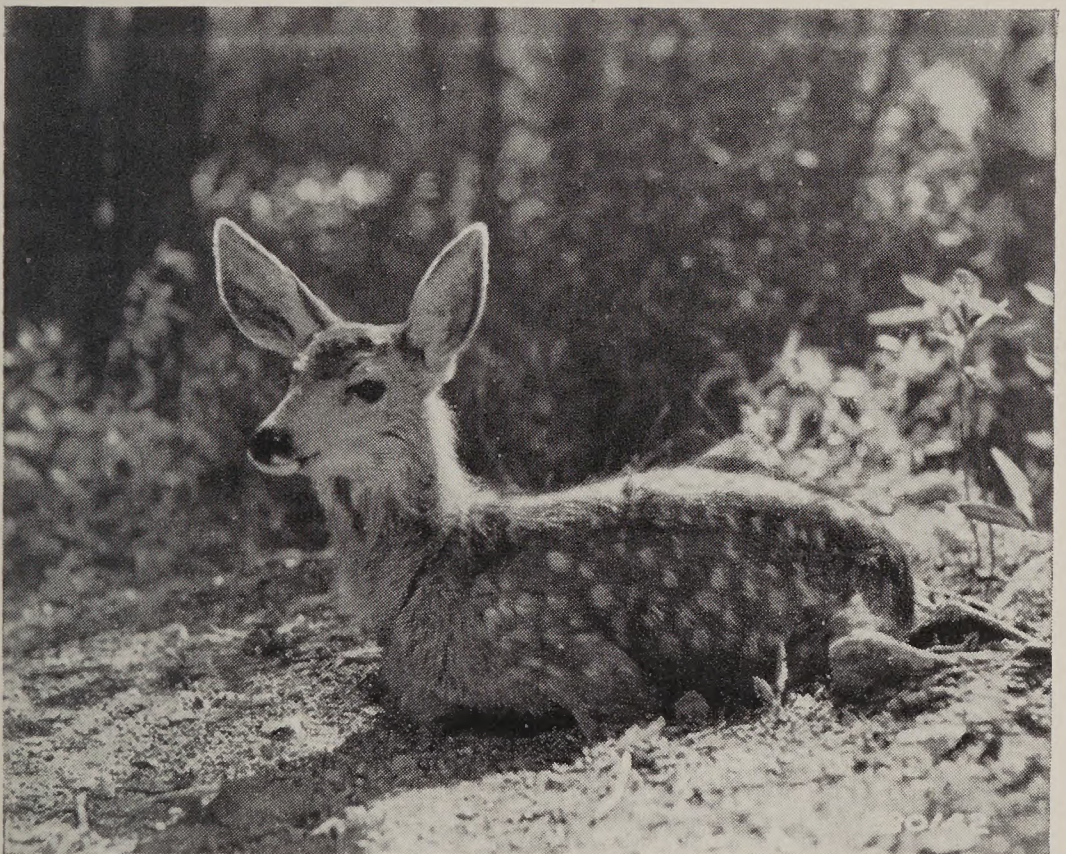
From that day to this these instructions have been the foundation for the policies of the Forest Service.

There are now about 150 national forests, which are grouped in ten regions, including one region in Alaska. Southern Idaho, western Wyoming, Utah, and eastern Nevada make up Region 4, with headquarters at Ogden, Utah.

The Boise Forest is directly under the supervision of a forest supervisor whose headquarters are at Boise, Idaho. This forest is divided into five ranger districts, with a yearlong district ranger in charge, who, with the temporary assistants needed, attends to all the routine duties connected with the administration, use, and protection of his district. District rangers are located at Pine, Cottonwood, Idaho City, Atlanta, and Lowman.

WATERSHED VALUE

Someone may ask: "What is a watershed, and why has it a value?" A watershed is the area drained by a given stream, and the character of the watershed determines, in great measure, the evenness of the stream flow. Three hundred and fifty-four thousand eight hundred and eighty-nine acres of agricultural land, valued at over \$45,000,000, depend upon the Boise River watershed for the water necessary to raise crops. This water must be available every year and must be distributed throughout the growing season. Mountains well covered with timber, brush, and weeds make the best watershed by reducing the run-off in the spring and providing an even flow of water throughout the summer when it is most needed. Devastating fires, overgrazing, and unrestricted logging may result in enormous damage through erosion of the watershed, silting up of reservoirs, and increased spring run-off. One of the most important functions of the Boise Forest is to protect the watersheds of the Boise River and the South Fork of the Payette River, the waters from which are used extensively for irrigation.



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Fawn resting.

FISH AND GAME

Besides their value for irrigation, the streams of the Boise Forest are well supplied with fish. Only

those streams along the main roads are in any way depleted. Both State and Federal hatcheries cooperate in restocking the streams.

Big game, such as deer, elk, and mountain goats, are fairly abundant. Elk are protected yearlong, but the average hunter can get a deer or mountain goat during the open season with only a reasonable amount of hunting. During the past 20 years deer, elk, and mountain goats have increased in the Boise Forest, partly as a result of placing the South Fork Payette River, above Lowman, in a game preserve, where fishing and camping are allowed but no hunting is permitted. Within this area deer and elk are especially abundant and are frequently seen from the highway.

RECREATION

The advent of the automobile has opened up the forests to vast numbers of city and valley dwellers who had never before known the pleasure derived from camping under the pines along cool mountain streams. Where 20 years ago hundreds used the forest for camping, hunting, and fishing, now thousands use it, and there is still room for tens of thousands more.



Camping on the Boise.

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Nineteen thousand two hundred people used the Boise Forest for recreation during the summer of 1935. As rapidly as possible the more desirable campgrounds are being cleaned up and furnished with tables, stoves, and other camp equipment. Other areas are set aside as summer home sites, where those who wish to do so may secure the exclusive use of a plot for permanent summer residence. The only requirements are that proper sanitary and fire precautions be taken and that any buildings erected be made to harmonize with the surroundings.



F-253322

Fishing in South Fork Payette River.

TIMBER

There is now growing on the Boise Forest one and one-half billion feet of merchantable timber and as much more that is unmerchantable. The most valuable species is ponderosa pine. This timber is found at elevations of from 4,000 to 6,000 feet and covers about one-quarter of the total area of the forest. The Forest Service permits the cutting of nothing but mature trees, and the annual cut must not exceed the annual growth. This system of cutting is known as "sustained yield." Under this method 50,000,000 feet per annum could be cut from the Boise Forest without depleting the timber

supply, or in any way disturbing the stream flow; in fact, it would be beneficial, as the removal of the old over-mature trees would cause the remaining stand to thicken up, making a much denser ground cover than the present one. The unmerchantable timber grows at the higher elevations and consists of Douglas fir, alpine fir, lodgepole pine, white bark pine, and Engelmann spruce, which can not be logged profitably at present lumber prices.



Ponderosa pine ready to cut.

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FORAGE

In addition to the timber crops on the national forests, which require 50 to 150 years to grow, there is the annual crop of grass, weeds, and browse, for which there is a heavy demand from livestock men needing summer range. The equitable allotment of grazing privileges and the careful supervision of the range to insure its proper use and prevent damage to the watershed or to young timber are among the major activities of the Forest Service. During the summer of 1935, 3,441 cattle and horses and 66,519 sheep were grazed on the Boise Forest.



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Results of a "man-caused" fire.

FOREST FIRES

Fire is the greatest single agency of forest destruction, and human indifference and carelessness are responsible for most of the damage done. For the past several years lightning has caused 75 percent of the fires started on the Boise Forest, but altogether they have burned over a smaller area and done less damage than the fires started by man. All users of the forest should be extremely careful with fires. Be sure your fire is out before you leave camp.





Clear Creek.

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ROAD MILEAGE TABLE

From Boise to—	<i>Miles</i>
Arrow Rock Dam.....	26
Atlanta.....	122
Beaver Creek Ranger Station.....	63
Coonans Cabin.....	10
Cottonwood Ranger Station.....	38
Deer Park Guard Station.....	82
Dutch Creek Guard Station.....	92
Featherville	100
Garden Valley via Banks.....	53
Grandjean via Banks.....	108
Grandjean via Idaho City.....	105
Idaho City.....	45
Long Gulch Guard Station via Cottonwood Ranger Station.....	60
Lowman via Banks.....	80
Lowman via Idaho City.....	77
Mountain Home.....	46
New Centerville via Harris Creek.....	48

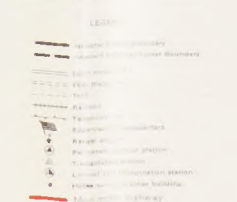
From Boise to—Continued.	Miles
New Centerville via Idaho City.....	52
Pine via Cottonwood Ranger Station.....	96
Pine via Mountain Home.....	88
Placerville via Harris Creek.....	46
Placerville via Idaho City.....	58
Rocky Bar.....	108
Shaefer Butte Lookout.....	18
Trinity Lakes Guard Station.....	116
Troutdale Guard Station.....	60
From Cottonwood Ranger Station to—	
Arrow Rock Dam.....	12
Idaho City.....	20
Long Gulch Guard Station.....	22
Pine.....	58
Smith Prairie.....	32
Troutdale Guard Station.....	22
From Idaho City to—	
Bald Mountain Lookout.....	14
Beaver Creek Ranger Station.....	18
Deer Park Guard Station.....	37
Dutch Creek Guard Station.....	47
Jackson Peak Lookout.....	32
Lowman via Beaver Creek.....	32
From Lowman to—	
Beaver Creek Ranger Station.....	14
Clear Creek Summit.....	19
Deadwood River.....	5
Garden Valley.....	27
Grandjean.....	28
Warm Springs Guard Station.....	18
From Pine to—	
Atlanta.....	34
Featherville.....	12
House Mountain Lookout.....	22
Rocky Bar.....	20
Trinity Lakes.....	32



Lick Creek Ranger Station.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
F. W. MORTIMER, CHIEF, BOISE DISTRICT
BOISE NATIONAL FOREST
IDAHO
BOISE MERIDIAN
1928



SIX RULES FOR PREVENTING FIRE IN THE FORESTS

1. **Matches.**—Be sure your match is out. Break it in two before you throw it away.
2. **Tobacco.**—Be sure that pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stubs are dead before throwing them away. Never throw them into brush, leaves, or needles.
3. **Making camp.**—Before building a fire scrape away all inflammable material from a spot 5 feet in diameter. Dig a hole in the center and in it build your campfire. Keep your fire small. Never build it against trees or logs, or near brush.
4. **Breaking camp.**—Never break camp until your fire is out—dead out.
5. **Burning brush.**—Never burn slash or brush in windy weather or while there is the slightest danger that the fire will get away.
6. **How to put out a campfire.**—Stir the coals while soaking them with water. Turn small sticks and drench both sides. Wet the ground around the fire. If you can't get water, stir in earth and tread it down until packed tight over and around the fire. Be sure the last spark is dead.

